



Fact Sheet

EPA Issues Revised General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Industrial Activities

Summary

On June 4, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for stormwater discharges from industrial activities. The 2015 MSGP replaces the 2008 MSGP.

Background

Industrial stormwater has been regulated since the promulgation of EPA's 1990 stormwater regulations, which established NPDES permit requirements for "stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity." EPA issued the first MSGP for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity on Sept. 29, 1995, and reissued in 2000 and 2008.

The stormwater regulations at 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(i)-(ix) identify the categories of industrial activities subject to NPDES stormwater regulations by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code, or by a general description of the industrial activities, which are:

- Facilities subject to New Source Performance Standards
- Heavy manufacturing
- Mining, oil and gas
- Hazardous waste facilities
- Landfills
- Recycling facilities
- Steam electric power plants
- Transportation industries
- Sewage treatment facilities
- Light industry

EPA categorized these industrial activities into 29 industrial sectors covered under a single permit, the MSGP, with each sector having tailored requirements.

EPA's MSGP only applies in areas of the country where EPA remains the NPDES permitting authority and has made the permit available for coverage. This includes the states of Idaho, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New Mexico; the District of Columbia; all U.S. territories with the exception of the Virgin Islands; federally operated facilities in Colorado, Delaware, Vermont and Washington; most Indian Country lands; and a couple of other activities in specific states (e.g., oil and gas activities in Texas and Oklahoma).

The 2008 MSGP expired Sept. 29, 2013, and was administratively continued for covered facilities. At this time, all facilities desiring coverage under the MSGP need to submit NOIs for coverage under the 2015 permit, including facilities already covered under the 2008 MSGP.

Summary of 2015 MSGP

The 2015 MSGP provisions are largely similar to the 2008 MSGP. However, EPA made some changes to streamline the permit, enhance environmental protections, and improve clarity. The following is a

summary of the most significant changes:

- Revised threatened and endangered species eligibility procedures.
- Additional specificity for several of the technology-based effluent limits (i.e., control measures) for clarity.
- A requirement that facilities discharging to a small number of federal Superfund sites notify their EPA regional office prior to filing their Notice of Intent (NOI).
- Streamlining of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) documentation (i.e., facilities do not have to expound on their compliance with certain effluent limits).
- Public accessibility to SWPPP information, either by posting on the

Internet or by incorporating salient information into the NOI.

- Electronic submission for the NOI, Notice of Termination, annual report, and monitoring.
- Reduced requirements for inspections (i.e., facilities no longer have to conduct a separate comprehensive site inspection).
- Specific deadlines for taking corrective actions.
- Inclusion of saltwater benchmark values for metals.
- Inclusion of the Airport Deicing Effluent Limitation Guideline for the air transportation sector.

For further information about this notice, please write to:

Mr. Bryan Rittenhouse
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water (4203M)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
E-mail: rittenhouse.bryan@epa.gov
Phone: (202) 564-0577

For additional information on the MSGP, or to view or download the complete text of the *Federal Register* notice, please visit:

<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/EPA-Multi-Sector-General-Permit-MSGP.cfm>.